

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Washington State is one of the most productive agricultural regions in the country, and Washington farmers and ranchers produce \$10 billion in food and agricultural products every year; and

WHEREAS, the quality and diversity of Washington agricultural products is recognized throughout the country, ranking us first in the nation in providing many staple foods; and

WHEREAS, the National School Lunch Program encourages eating these nutritious agricultural products by providing affordable meals and supporting school purchases of local foods for students; and

WHEREAS, last year, Washington State growers produced more than \$63 million worth of food products that were distributed to the National School Lunch Program and other food assistance programs by the United States Department of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the federal Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 and the Washington State Local Farms Healthy Kids Act of 2008 support increased consumption of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat dairy products, which can be provided by Washington producers; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Agriculture Farm to School Program connects Washington farms with schools to increase purchases of Washington-grown foods; and

WHEREAS, the Washington School Nutrition Association provides service to our state's schools, helping to ensure healthy, well-balanced meals for our school children;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim the 5th day of October, 2016 as

Taste Washington Day

in the State of Washington, and I urge all citizens to join me in recognizing the value of the school lunch program and the contributions made to it by Washington state agriculture.



Signed this 9th day of September, 2016

Governor Jay Inslee